



**Chris Wiseman and his son Joshua live in Broadstairs. Joshua is five years old and a pupil at Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School.**

# **Chris believes in high standards of education, behaviour and values, and that is why he chose Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School for his son**

## **Consistence in excellence**

Chris's elder son, now 16, had attended Callis Grange School and had been very happy there, so Chris had no hesitation about enrolling Joshua there as well. It was not the fact that the school is only a five minute walk from their home but its excellent reputation which influenced Chris's choice. "If we didn't live so near I might not have been able to get Joshua a place," he believes. "Callis Grange is rightly popular, producing consistently excellent results and with a Headteacher who gets things done, rather than just talking about it."

## A yearning for learning

It is also a relatively small school, and with the traditional values which Chris admires. "It seems to me to be rather like schools used to be in the sixties, with an emphasis on proven teaching methods, good behaviour and mutual respect between students and staff," he says. "I like the fact that the school upholds and promotes the same values that I try to instil in Joshua, and also that it encourages enjoyment in learning; at his age he absorbs information like a sponge and the school makes the most of that ability."

## Breaking news .....

Joshua had a difficult start to his time at Callis Grange, having broken his arm very badly and suffering severe nerve damage as a result. It has taken almost eighteen months for his injury to recover but this has not been allowed to adversely affect his participation in school life.

"The accident happened just as he was beginning to learn to write and at a time when it wasn't clear whether he would be right- or left-handed," Chris says. "When he first started school, his handwriting was quite poor but whatever it was his teacher did, it had a very good effect and his writing has come on in leaps and bounds. It seems clear that the staff have encouraged and helped him when he needed it but at the same time not made a big deal out of it, so he gradually learned to do things by himself and that is the approach I take myself."

## Safe and secure

Aside from this, Chris has never had any major issues to address with the school as far as Joshua's welfare is concerned, but acknowledges that if he ever wants to discuss anything the staff are always approachable. "His teacher, the Headteacher or both are at the school gate at the start and end of the day and I can have a chat then if I want to, or otherwise they will make time later. They also take the children's safety very seriously and don't let them leave until they have made sure a designated family member is onsite to collect them. That is very reassuring."

## Inspiration

Joshua has, says Chris, a nice circle of friends and always comes out of school happy and enthusiastic about his day. "It's a friendly environment, and I see little or no evidence of bullying. I have no doubt that anything like that would be immediately dealt with but fortunately it's something I haven't experienced. Joshua genuinely enjoys every aspect of school and his active imagination is encouraged by what and how he is being taught, so he even looks forward to doing his homework! It is important to me that children are inspired and given every chance to make the most of their education."

## Mutual respect

Chris feels that in essence Callis Grange has changed little since his older son was there, upholding the same quality of education, values and high standards as before, under a strong, level-headed management. "Joshua calls the Headteacher 'The Big Boss Lady' and whilst he likes her very much, he has a strong respect for her authority, which is how it should be. She, as are the rest of the staff, is firm but fair, and to me, that sums up Callis Grange as the school which can do the best for my son."

## Children say

Joshua: "I love going to a cool school. It's fun and I want to keep on learning because I want to be an astronaut when I grow up and you can't go into space if you're not clever!"



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